DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 4th BRIGADE
1st CAVALRY DIVISION
CAMP COOKE, IRAQ APO AE 09313

May 14, 2004

Dear Families and Loved Ones of the Warrior Team:

As we start on our third month of deployment, I want to let you all know of the Brigade Combat Team's many accomplishments during the last 90 days. Camp Cooke is in a state of constant improvement; each day, soldiers from every unit are working to renovate buildings, relocate into living trailers, and improve the quality of life. From pilot to mechanic to clerk, your soldiers are making this a better place.

We continue to take the fight to the anti-Coalition forces by conducting daily missions to disrupt the terrorist cells operating in our Area of Operations in Iraq. Our first priority remains conducting combat operations to capture or destroy the enemy. Numerous missions in our zone continue to result in the capture of dangerous criminals and terrorists intent on disrupting the transition of authority to the Iraqi people.

Although progress continues, this is still a dangerous place. Our hearts go out to the families of our soldiers lost during the past months, and we pray for the healing of those wounded. As most of you may know, on April 11th, 4th Brigade lost two heroes: CW3 Chuck Fortenberry and CW2 Shane Colton. They had completed an air mission and were returning to base when they received a distress call from a ground convoy that was being ambushed. The convoy was being overrun and requested air support. Chuck and Shane responded without hesitation. They provided suppressive fire while the wounded were medically evacuated and enabled the ground convoy to break contact. Task Force Attack held a battalion memorial service on the April 13th to honor those two true Americans and their memories.

We are winning this war. The desperation of the anti-Coalition forces is evident as we continue to win the support of the local population through projects aimed at improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people as well as preparing to turn over governmental functions.

Sincerely,

James C. McConville
Colonel, US Army
Commanding